He Who Wins.

HE WHO..INS IN AN AGE LIKE THIS.

1 Jn.5:4 This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our Faith."

INTRO.

The Depression is testing the souls of men.

1. Human endeavor has become futile and life has been cheapened.

2. Middle-aged men and workers advanced in yrs the rich in experience are made to give up in despair. Permanent lay-offs, salary cuts in the face of the advancing army of young workers with greater strength, skill and ingenuity.

3. Young people also face a difficult situation.

So many applicants for the same job. They are told that all the professions are overcrowded. Wages are not what they were during the wartimes.

4. In times like these moral tragedies increase beyond measure. Suidide rate on the increase. Many take to drink, trying to drown out their sorrows and overcome their difficulties in drunkenness, much as the ostrich tries to hide himself from th rnemy by burying his head in the sand.

The depression has shattered homes and filled people with darkness and despair.

What has our religion to offer in the way of help in times such as ours? Can a right grasp of spiritual realities enable a man to overcome the present world? Read text.

I. To win at the present time takes courage. Our fear and despair must be overcome. But how?

When the Medianites overran Palestine and became to the Israelites a menace to the point of extermination, it took a Gideon to drive them out.

Gideon assembled his troops and told the fearful ones to go home. 23,000 left him. The rest he sifted out still further on the basis of the alert and the careless. Only 300 were left him. What could he do with such a few? What did he do?

Each with a torch and a trumpet surrounded the stron hild of the enemy at night. The lighted torches and the blare of trumpets made the Medianites think that the were surrounded by a countless number of enemies, and they fled!

What are we afraid of today? Is is not laggely a fear of losing our economic safety and security?

Where are we going to get the courage necessary to overcome this fear? A momentary daring will not prove adequate. The courage need for this hour is born of religious experience. It is the courage of faith. Peter "Add to your faith courage".

The courage of a cause. The courage of patriotic service to one's country in time of war. William Carey laboring in his mission field and Father Damien living and dying among his lepers give us the highest models of courage

Such sacrifieces as these make our own risks seem small indeed.

The Vacaville group digging for gold. Father going to the Feather River. Klondikers. Not all who dig for gold find it. What courage will enable them to overcome their losses and disappoin tments? Only the courage of faith in God, in faith in the spiritual order of the universe, faith that will overcome all losses and give an ultimate permanent victiry, the courage of faith.

II. To win today one must have the power to see the invisible.

Times like these demand that we make new adjustments.

Thomas A. Edison's invention of the voting machine. Congress did'nt want it. He learned that his inventions must meet the needs of the people.

In times like these thousands are made helpless because they cannot see ahead. The old order has passed away and they do not know how to meet the new.

Money will be made again. It will be made by men and women of vision, who know how to adapt themselves to the changed circumstances of life, and how to meet the needs of the hour

Religion has always been the great school of the imagination. Seeing things invisible makes the winner. Abraham left Ur for a land he had never seen. The visions of Joan of Arc made her the leader she became. Gandhi, without war-funds and secretaries, shakes the British Empire. We can only sustify our lives in terms of real achievement. It takes vision to do that. Thevision for winning comes from a life of faith, the very life of faith always emphasized by the Chircu of Christ. The man who has faith in God knows that there is more to the universe than is indicated by just the five senses.

III. But the winners of today must have more than courage and vision; they must have steadfastness, too: the power to hold his efforts steadily in the achievement of some definite end.

The myriads of butterflies- harmless.
The honeybees miles away from their hive, working under orders from the hive.
Lines of ants coming and going. Break thru the line and see them in their efforts to overcome the break.
Humans are like these insects.

Some are like butterflies, floating along on whatever breeze is blowing, and having no s sense of destination.

But human bees we all admire. Paul was such-"this one thing I do".

It takes vision to see our purpose in life, but it takes steadfastness to fulfill our purpose. Faith in God and consequent faith in self and in our fellows awakens within us this power of steadfastness.

IV. Another power a winner must have is loyalty-loyalty to others. Gideon could not have achieved the victory alone. Without his 300 men a Gideon could do nothing. Our millionaires are learning that without the working men their riches are valueless. Apart from the growers and the producers the rest of us cannot live.

The wise man of the future will be keenly conscious of our social solidarity. In the long run we shall all grow rich together or we shall all grow poor together. Our religion, above all others, teaches us this lesson of successful living. The man who has learned to serve is he who is best fitted to lead. He who loves God and his fellow man is the real millionaire. Loyalty to the children of the One Heavenly Father banished racial prejudices and those deadly jealousies and animosities which defeat us in our purposes and prevent our success.

V. Lastly, the foundation of all true achievement is honesty. We lack many things today, but the greatest lack of all is common honesty, the living up to that which is but right and fair to all concerned.

We may suffer from overproduction. We may have too many automobiles, too many radios, too many of ebery thing, but there can be no overproductio n of homest men.

The man of honesty and fidelity is above all

5. a man of faith in God. God is the great so source of spiritual power, and consequently the source of all true economic and social power as well.

The glory of God is to be found in men of faith that makes them courageous, far-seeing, steadfast and loyal and honest, men who over come the fears and the depressions of the times and reestablish the world in peace and prosperity.

"This is the faith that overcomes the world, even our faith".